

CLAIMS:

1. A method of ensuring the quality of service in a broadcast network (1), wherein

- 5 a) one network participant (7) as source (Q) transmits a data stream (P) to another network participant (6) as target (Z) without performing its own control of the quality of service;
- b) a further network participant (8) observes, as a bandwidth manager (BM), the network traffic and, in the case of a risk of overload, transmits a control message (A) to the source (Q), which message causes this source to reduce said data stream (P).

10 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the data are exchanged in the network (1) in a packet-oriented manner, particularly in accordance with a TCP/IP-based protocol.

15 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the bandwidth manager (BM) transmits the control message (A) to the source (Q) through the simulated transmitter of the target (Z).

20 4. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the control message (A) represents a direct request for reducing the data stream.

25 5. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the control message (A) simulates an error in the transmission of the data stream (P) from the source (Q) to the target (Z), so that the source (Q) is made to reduce the data stream.

6. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the control message (A) triggers a connection breakdown.

7. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the bandwidth manager (BM) first attempts to reduce the largest data stream in view of a plurality of data streams between apparatuses without their own quality of service control in the case of risk of overload of the network (1).

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8. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that tasks between a plurality of network participants which can operate as bandwidth managers are co-ordinated.

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9. A network apparatus (8), characterized in that it is adapted to be capable of operating as a bandwidth manager (BM) in a method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8.

10. A network (1) comprising network participants (3 to 9) including at least one network apparatus (8) as claimed in claim 9.